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ABSTRACT

Information services offered by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) include "Chieffile," an electronic mail system, and "CHIEFLINE," a semiweekly news bulletin board. Chieffile provides information on federal legislation which is updated weekly, technology-related activities, a clearinghouse for information on state responses to the recommendations contained in "A Nation at Risk," a database listing school/college collaboration programs, a bulletin board for participants in the Educational Resource Exchange Program, and a Community Education Bulletin Board. A review of system usage suggested that 90% of the states check the contents of Chieffile at least once a month, 68% check it twice a week, and nearly 36% check it almost daily. CCSSO is also exploring the possibility of developing an international computer conferencing capability in cooperation with counterpart organizations in all parts of the world. Examples of the types of information available from the network are included. (EW)

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Chieffile

The Electronic Mail, News, and Information Service of the Council of Chief State School Officers

George Rush

IR013558

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is a nationwide nonprofit organization of the 57 officials who administer departments of public education in U.S. states, territories, and the District of Columbia. Recognizing the responsibility of the states for leadership in education, the council exists to help its members and their agencies fulfill their responsibilities as leaders in education. To accomplish this, CCSSO provides service and a means of cooperative action among its members to strengthen education through the work of the state education agencies. The CCSSO seeks its members' consensus on major educational issues, and expresses these views to professional organizations, federal agencies, Congress, and the public. Employing a structure of standing and special committees, the council responds to a broad range of concerns about education and provides leadership on major issues.

CCSSO plans and conducts seminars and study programs that offer many opportunities for the professional growth and development of chief state school officers and their management teams. With offices in Washington, D.C., the council is able to express its members' views on major education issues to Congress and to the executive branch, including the U.S. Department of Education.

Special projects undertaken by council staff members address areas of concern at the state level and are designed to help state education agencies strengthen public education. Research and resources developed by council projects are widely disseminated to the states and territories.

Recognizing the importance of rapid and accurate communication between the Washington office and all of its members, William F. Pierce, the CCSSO executive director, began to investigate the feasibility of using electronic networking as a means of improving dissemination of appropriate information early in 1982. Dr. Pierce initiated a review and analysis of commercial providers of electronic mail and relevant data bases, and considered the ability of states in general, and chiefs in particular, to access these networks. Based on the results of that assessment, the CCSSO Board of Directors authorized the council staff to enter into an agreement with the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) to operate an electronic network as part of NSPRA's ED-LINE project, using The Source, beginning in December 1982. Arrangements were made for each chief and state board chair to have a subscription to ED-LINE with resulting access to the emerging system.

The council christened its new information and news service system Chieffile and began operation by offering electronic mail and a daily bulletin board containing information the council felt would be of interest to chief state school officers. ED-LINE added National Networks to its main menu (Exhibit A), and the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Association of State Boards of Education to the submenu generated when National Networks is selected (Exhibit B). To ensure that every state had the opportunity to use the system appropriately, each CCSSO staff member was assigned a number of states to contact, offer assistance, and identify operational or procedural issues that might limit effective use of the system. This procedure—having each staff member monitor a block of states—was maintained for a period of one year, and proved to be most helpful in minimizing access problems and encouraging use of the network.

In addition to the news bulletin board (later reduced from daily to semiweekly), which came to be known as CHIEFLINE (Exhibit C), the council's information service has included the following components:

- Hill Notes: News concerning federal legislative issues updated weekly
- Clearinghouse on State Activities in Education: State profiles describing initiatives undertaken by the states to address the recommendations contained in *A Nation at Risk*
- Techfile: A file of information about technology-related activities in state departments of education
- Collaborative Ed: A data base listing school/college collaboration programs in the states
- Executive Fellows: A bulletin board designed to provide information to and encourage participation of state education agency staff selected for the Educational Resource Exchange Program
- Community Education Bulletin Board: An information system developed as part of a Mott Foundation grant to provide current and relevant information to state community education coordinators

This brief review of the files that have resided on the system reflects the changing nature of the chiefs' interests, the emerging issues, and the ability of the system to accommodate special project needs. As an example, the Clearinghouse on State Activities in Education reported information on specific activities undertaken by the states to respond to *A Nation at Risk*, and provided a valuable resource to administrators interested in looking at alternative approaches as they addressed their own needs.

Additionally, the maintainance of the system over time reflected new initiatives, beyond those suggested by the Excellence Commission, that continued and enhanced the education reform effort. The data files that described activities, programs, policies, and practices in areas of technology (Techfile) and school/college collaboration (Collaborative Ed), similarly provided decision makers with a reference base in developing or refining their own programs. Members have indicated that one of the most important services the council can offer is the dissemination of information about how their colleagues are grappling with common problems, and these information resources and the electronic system containing them effectively respond to this need. (It should be noted that recently, because of budget restrictions, several of the above-mentioned files have been discontinued on Chieffile. A current representative selection of Chieffile's information can be read in the exhibits that follow.)

A review of the use of Chieffile from December 1985 through August 1986 revealed that during the nine-month period, 46 states accessed the system. (CCSSO did not have a tracking system prior to December 1985, and changes to The Source operating system after August 1986 eliminated the tracking ability.) As the council has not yet successfully connected the extrastate jurisdictions (American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, and the Virgin Islands) or Hawaii on a cost-effective basis, this review indicates that only five of the remaining members did not access the system during that period. The council did not have the capability of tracking usage of the electronic mail facility during that time period; consequently, it is not known if the five members used that medium. Average monthly access of the system is depicted in the following chart.

State Usage of Chieffile

Average Monthly Access	Number of States
0	5
1–5	11
6–10	16
11–15	12
16–20	6

If a premise is accepted that access of the system by the states is spread evenly over the month, it can be assumed that 90 percent of the states check the content of Chieffile at least once a week, 68 percent access it twice a week, and 36 percent almost daily.

Although the council did not have the opportunity to account for the usage of the electronic mail capacity of the system accurately, there is evidence that members recognized and availed themselves of the benefits provided by this additional communication and information resource. This evidence was manifested in the form of frequent requests from constituents, sent to the council by electronic mail, to survey all the states concerning a matter of particular interest to a state. The requests received demonstrated the value of the system in helping decision makers address key issues on a timely basis. These requests responding to legislative inquiries or emerging policy issues and seeking information on what other states were doing or had completed included:

- Curriculum development in teaching about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
- Regulations and/or laws concerning teacher contract renewals
- Recent studies, briefs, and the like on state finance plans and equity
- Disclosure of student records
- Mandated duty-free lunch periods for teachers
- Outside employment policies for state and local staff
- Distance learning activities
- Number of pupil instruction days required and number beyond the minimum funded
- Procedures for evaluating managers and directors
- Graduation requirements and early exit arrangements
- Competency tests to permit students to move onto higher-level classes without taking prerequisite courses when proficiency has been demonstrated

- Actions taken in response to budget shortfalls
- State, district, and school planning requirements and master plan documents
- Policies for home instruction by parents
- Teacher supply-and-demand studies and procedures
- Policies concerning student fees
- School accountability programs

The use of the system by members to request information from their counterparts reached a sufficient volume that members asked the council to develop a procedure that would reduce requests for information already available and assist requestors in formulating inquiries that benefit multiple state needs. This unexpected development provided a management opportunity resulting from use of the new media. Specifically, the requests for information in all probability had not increased as a result of the new system, but for the first time requests were being received in a centralized location for handling or assignment to the appropriate location for response.

This opportunity to exercise control over the information dissemination process at both the state and council levels significantly increases awareness of what data is available, resulting in an increased potential for more effectively using information. It was gratifying to the council to see that traffic on the system was sufficient to justify the establishment of some controls to assure that its usage did not become intrusive and diminish its value to the chief state school officers and their management officials.
In June 1986, the council surveyed its membership concerning their views and suggestions on the content and use of the electronic system. Results of that survey indicated that the members were particularly interested in the following kinds of information:

- Executive Director's Analysis of Current and Timely Issues—96 percent of the respondents
- CCSSO Project Highlights—93 percent
- Focus on Issues and Briefings—84 percent
- CCSSO Committee Activities—84 percent
- Hightlights of Special Activities from Selected States—78 percent
- Demographic and Statistical Information Reflecting Emerging Trends—72 percent

The membership further approved the current schedule of updating the major bulletin boards on Tuesdays and Fridays of each week.

Based on the survey, the council is currently working with the Special Interest Group/State Education Agencies (SIG/SEA) of the American Education Research Association (AERA) to develop a computer conferencing capability that will solicit chief state school officers' input on current and emerging educational policy issues. Additionally, the council is seeking financial and technical support to develop an international education network electronically connecting the council with its counterpart organizations in Great Britain, Canada, Australia, Mexico, the Nordic countries, and Germany, and with the ministers of education in South America, Africa, the Middle East, and the Far East. The objectives of this international electronic network would include:

- Maintainance of regular communication between those individuals responsible for administering the educational enterprise in their respective jurisdictions

- Creation of a computer conferencing capability that would provide participating administrators the opportunity to exchange views and ideas, interactively, on topics of mutual interest

- Establishment and maintenance of appropriate data bases to describe the demographic and organizational characteristics of the education system in each participant's country

- Establishment of a computer-accessible data base on resources available to support a global awareness and understanding of the international dimensions of education

- Development of an international indicators report

In retrospect, some of the major considerations associated with the establishment and operation of the network included the following issues: What is the major purpose of the system and whom is it designed to serve? This question involved consideration of the content of the system, the operational style of those it was designed to serve, and access to the system by nonmembers. If the system were open to all members of the State Education Agency, would controls be required to ensure that its relevance for chief state school officers was not diminished? If the chief state school officers were likely to assign the responsibility of accessing the system to staff members, how could those persons be adequately trained in system operation? Similarly, if chiefs assigned staff members with particular program interest as the network liaisons (for example, legislative specialists) how could the council ensure that this specialized interest did not begin to dominate the system emphasis? Who would manage the network?

Collecting, editing, and reporting information of interest to a diverse membership is not a casual undertaking to be done on an ad hoc basis. Too many consecutive issues of a newsletter or bulletin board that are not valuable to the subscriber would be a death knell for the network. How could the system be most effectively evaluated and improved? What procedures needed to be established to accommodate those who missed information presented electronically? These questions took a great deal of research, analysis, and effort to work through as the council brought the system from the design to the operational stage. Many mistakes were made, but changes were initiated almost immediately. In spite of the problems and the effort required, the council is extremely pleased that Chieffile was established.

In summary, the council has found electronic networking to be an extremely effective communication medium, and participants feel that they have only begun to avail themselves of its full potential. The council is continuing to investigate the network's capacity to disseminate information on a timely basis, permit interchange of ideas, and maintain appropriate and accessible data bases.

Exhibit A: ED-LINE on The Source

(**Note:** To access Chieffile, first choose option 7, "National, State, Regional Networks.")

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*                        *
* Welcome to ED-LINE     *
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ED-LINE MAIN MENU

August 7, 1987

1 Education USA Newsline <NEWS>
2 School PR Line: The NSPRA Network <PR> (6-1-87)
3 Federal Alert <ALERT> (8-3-87)
4 EDTECH Update <EDTECH> (7-24-87)
5 Legal Briefs: The Law of the Land (7-6-87) <LEGAL>
6 RuraLine <RURAL> (7-23-87)
7 National, State, Regional Networks <NETWORKS>
8 Network Directory <DIRECTORY>
9 Ed Exchange <EXCHANGE>
10 What's New in Research from U.S. Department of Education <RESEARCH>
11 ERIC Digests Online (Timely Education Reports)<ERIC> (7-15-87)
12 ED-LINE Bonus <BONUS> - AUGUST
13 School Improvement Tips (7-28-87) <TIPS>
14 Associated Press Wire Service <AP>
15 United Press International <UPI>
16 Sign Off from ED-LINE and The Source <OFF>

Enter item number, <Q>uit or <H>elp: 7

Exhibit B: National, State, Regional Networks Menu

(**Note:** Choose option 1 to access CCSSO's Chieffile.)

NATIONAL, STATE, REGIONAL NETWORKS

1 Council of Chief State School Officers <CCSSO>
2 Educational Resources Information Center <ERIC>
3 National Assn. of Elementary School Principals <NAESP>
4 National School Boards Assn. <NSBA>
5 School Public Relations <NSPRA>
6 Office of Educational Research and Improvement <OERI>
7 Communication/Youth News Service <YOUTH>
8 Kentucky Network for Educational Telecommunication <KNET>
9 ORE-NET, Oregon's Education Computer Information Network <ORENET>
10 Washington State School Directors' Assn. <WSSDA>
11 WIS/NET Wisconsin Assn. of School Boards <WASB>
12 Wyoming Dept. of Education <WYNET>
13 Regional Educational Laboratories <REL>

Enter item number, <Q>uit or <H>elp: 1

Exhibit C: Contents of Chieffile on August 7, 1987

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ChieFFile, the news and information service of the Council of Chief State School Officers for August 7, 1987.

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1 CHIEFLINE—CCSSO Newsletter for 8/4/87
2 Hill Notes—News from the Hill for 7/31/87
3 Community Education Bulletin Board August 5, 1987
4 Exit The Source

Enter item number, <Q>uit or <H>elp: 1

Screen 1 of 12

CHIEFLINE

Tuesday August 4, 1987

UPDATE: MICHIGAN EXTENDS DATE FOR SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

At its July 15, 1987, meeting, the Michigan Board of Education approved an extension in the date for applications and nominations for the position of State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The deadline date has been extended from July 31, 1987, to August 31, 1987. It is the hope of the State Board of Education that the extension of the deadline will permit as many interested and qualified candidates as possible to apply for the position. Letters of interest with a complete resume or nominations and inquiries should be sent to: Mrs. Cherry Jacobus, Secretary, Superintendent Search Committee, State Board of Education, P.O. Box 30008, Lansing, MI 48909, or call (517) 373-3900.

PENNSYLVANIA PRINCIPALS ATTEND ACADEMY ON INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

July 27–31, 1987, thirty-five principals from all regions of Pennsylvania became students when they attended the first Principals Academy on Instructional Leadership at the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The week-long academy was designed to help principals strengthen their role as leaders in improving the effectiveness of teaching in their schools. According to Education Secretary Thomas K. Gilhool, "Especially important is instructional leadership that arms teachers with a command of systematic methods of teaching that can be adapted to the learning style of each child." The principals attending the academy were chosen from more than 100 who applied for the program earlier this month. At the academy, the principals will focus on four aspects of school leadership: overcoming obstacles to instructional leadership; leadership styles and strategies; principles and practices of effective instruction; and promoting teacher development.

In addition to attending an initial one-week session, the principals will attend weekend workshops in October and April to reinforce the original training and to discuss successes and problems encountered during the school year. Each participating principal also must work with a partner and a local team of principals during the school year to apply practices that have the greatest promise for improving student achievement. The second academy will take place August 11–14, 1987, and will serve an additional 35 principals. In late June, the Education Department issued invitations to 300 principals and their superintendents. For further information, contact Timothy Potts at (717) 783-9802.

OREGON BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES DROPOUT REPORTING SYSTEM

In late July, the Oregon Board of Education voted to require Oregon school districts to report names of students who drop out of school to the Oregon Department of Education. The reporting system will begin in the 1988–89 school year. On November 15, 1987, districts will report the names of students who did not return after summer vacation or dropped out during the first quarter of the school year. On July 31, 1988, districts will report the names of students who dropped out since the fall report. The rule defines dropouts as students who withdraw from school without receiving a high school diploma or an alternative award—a GED certificate, or an adult high school diploma from an Oregon community college. Students are not counted as dropouts when a request for transfer of records is received by the reporting district from another district within 45 days. The department will pilot test the system during the 1987–88 school year in a sampling of districts across the state. For further information, contact Les Adkins at (503) 378-5585.

ALASKA COMMISSIONER DEMMERT TO CHAIR CONSORTIUM

Alaska Commissioner of Education William G. Demmert will chair a consortium of the chief education officials from Circumpolar regions to explore future cooperation in delivering education to remote polar regions of the world. Demmert, an Alaska Native appointed to the state's top education post by Governor Steve Cowper and the State Board of Education, will host a meeting of the Circumpolar education officials in Juneau in May 1988 to explore methods for delivering "distance education" using educational technology. Demmert's election to the chair came during a meeting in late June on Baffin Island off the east coast of Canada's Northwest Territory. Also attending the meeting were Canadian ministers of education from the Northwest Territories, Yukon Territory, Newfoundland, and Labrador, and personal representatives of the ministers of education and culture for Greenland and Quebec.

The education leaders agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding to explore sharing educational program information, services, and research findings. They also agreed to coordinate development of education programs of common interest to avoid duplicative efforts. The leaders identified family life education and drug and alcohol education as examples. Finally, they agreed to write and distribute a joint publication outlining exemplary policies and programs, and to explore exchanges of staff and students from K–12 and postsecondary schools. For further information, contact Harry Gamble at (907) 465-2821.

STATE HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERS URGE NEW EFFORTS TO INCREASE MINORITY COLLEGE GRADUATES

Citing moral imperatives and economic necessity, Donald J. Nolan, Deputy Commissioner for Higher and Professional Education in the New York State Education Department, recently joined his fellow state higher education leaders in calling for an all-out effort to increase the college-going and graduation rates of minority students. This statement was made in conjunction with the release of a report by the Task Force of the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO), "A Difference of Degrees: State Initiatives to Improve Minority Student Achievement." The report concludes: "We simply can no longer content ourselves with progress for minorities that is episodic, grudging, and vulnerable to quick reversal at the slightest hint of benign indifference." For further information, contact Donald J. Nolan at (518) 474-5851.

Friday July 31, 1987

CCSSO STATE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT CENTER CONDUCTS TWO EDUCATION INDICATORS MEETINGS

July 23, 1987. The CCSSO State Assessment Center conducted a network meeting to review the Assessment Center's plans for reporting state-by-state indicators in education this fall. Plans discussed included descriptions and specifications of individual data elements tentatively planned for reporting. Participants commented on the technical quality of information reported, including its validity, accuracy, and consistency among states. Anne Hess, chair of CCSSO's technical advisory network, chaired the meeting.

July 24, 1987. The State Assessment Center conducted a second meeting to review preliminary plans for reports to be issued by the Assessment Center on state-by-state indicators on education. Plans discussed included the content and analytical models to be used in the reports; the audience, organization, style, and graphics to be used; and the standards, conditions, and qualifications to be applied in interpreting and using the data. Irene Bandy, chair of CCSSO's user/policy advisory network, chaired the meeting. Both all-day meetings were held at CCSSO's offices in Washington, D.C. For further information, contact Ramsay Selden at (202) 624-7700.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DRUG EDUCATION AND PREVENTION AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS PROGRAM GRANT INFORMATION

The U.S. Department of Education is conducting a $4.5 million grants competition to produce and distribute high-quality videotapes about the hazards of drug use. These tapes should be appropriate for classroom viewing by millions of America's elementary and secondary school students. The objective is to steer young people away from drugs and show them how to lead healthy, productive lives. The $4.5 million will be used to fund up to 16 proposals, estimated to range from $200,000 to $1 million. Under this program, the Secretary may make an award to a state educational agency, a local educational agency, an institution of higher education, or another profit or nonprofit agency, organization, or institution. Deadline for Grant Applications is September 4, 1987.

For applications or information, contact Louie E. Mathis, Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Room 4317 Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202, or call (202) 732-4637.

SENATE PASSES TRADE BILL

On Tuesday, July 21, 1987, the Senate concluded consideration of S. 1420, the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1987. Passing 71 to 27, the bill contains education provisions which are basically those contained in S. 406, the Education for a Competitive America Act approved by the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee. The Senate bill must now be reconciled with H.R. 3, the House version of trade legislation. A conference is not expected until after the August recess. For further information, contact Carnie Hayes at (202) 393-8165. (Source: Hill Notes, July 24, 1987)

LOCAL SCHOOL REFORM INITIATIVES AT AFT QuEST CONFERENCE

American Federation of Teachers (AFT) is sponsoring its biennial Quality Education Standards in Teaching (QuEST) conference, which opened Monday, July 27, 1987, and runs through August 2, 1987, at the Washington, D.C., Hilton Hotel. The conference will investigate what programs AFT affiliates and others are using on the local level to redefine the teaching profession and better meet the needs of the nation's students. The theme for this year's conference, "The Challenge in Change: Vision, Leadership and Action," reflects the AFT's out-front role in education reform and its willingness to discuss what others will not. For further information, contact Ruth Whitman, Scott Treibitz, or Jan Usdan at (202) 879-4458 or 800-238-1133.

NATIONAL GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION RELEASES FOLLOW-U REPORT ON STATE EDUCATION INITIATIVES

According to a recently released report by the National Governors' Association (NGA), states continue to place a very high priority on education reform and on state education initiatives. The fifty-state survey found that efforts to improve teaching continue to dominate the state education agenda, but school leadership and management issues are beginning to receive increased attention as states initiate policies to link school rewards and sanctions to educational performance. The survey, RESULTS IN EDUCATION: 1987, is the first annual follow-up to the major education report, TIME FOR RESULTS: THE GOVERNORS' 199 REPORT ON EDUCATION, released last year. In that report, gubernatoria task forces looked at seven of the most difficult issues facing education. These included teaching, leadership and management, parent involvement and choice, readiness for at-risk youth, educational technology, school facilities, and college quality.

The survey found that during the past year states paid growing attention to the needs of at-risk youth, as evidenced by early childhood education initiatives, and by programs to identify and provide remedial or alternative education programs for at-risk youth. Further, states have shown increased interest in addressing the quality of higher education by encouraging postsecondary institutions to define more clearly their missions and assess how well they accomplish them. The report suggests the following goals:

- Assuming larger responsibility for setting education goals and defining outcome standards
- Developing appropriate and effective sanctions for consistently poor performance by school districts
- Stimulating innovation and inventiveness at the local level, by local school boards, administrators, and teachers
- Removing state regulations which interfere with local efforts to restructure their schools
- Developing tests and other assessment tools which more appropriately reflect the educational outcomes we value

RESULTS IN EDUCATION: 1987 is available for $12.50 per copy and TIME FOR RESULTS: THE GOVERNORS' 1991 REPORT ON EDUCATION is available for $12.95 per copy from the National Governors' Association Publications Office, 444 North Capitol St. NW, Washington, DC 20001-1572.

HILL NOTES

July 31, 1987

OFSR REESTABLISHES FLR BROWN BAG LUNCHES

The CCSSO-OFSR held an informal brown bag lunch with Washington-based FLRs on Monday, July 27. Information shared by those in attendance included Senate action on allocations to the appropriations subcommittees (see Hill Notes, July 24), and strategies for the upcoming conference on trade legislation. OFSR will convene these lunches periodically; the format will be informal with no set agenda. Put Monday, August 10, on your calendar for the next lunch, in CCSSO's conference room. We will try to keep the meetings to a maximum of one hour, from 12:00 to 1:00. All FLRs are welcome to attend.

FLR STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The FLR Steering Committee will be meeting in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, August 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in room 337 of the Hall of the States Building. An agenda will be included in the next Hill Notes.

APPROPRIATIONS

The House Appropriations Committee met Thursday, July 30, to mark up the appropriations bill for Education and Labor as reported by the Subcommittee. The bill, H.R. 3058, includes $20.6 billion for the Department of Education, an increase of $1.165 billion over FY 1987. A breakdown by programs is summarized below:

- Chapter 1—$4.595 billion is appropriated for compensatory education, a $650.8 million increase over FY 1987.
- Bilingual Education—$198.9 million is appropriated, restoring $30 million to the Emergency Immigrant Education Program.
- Education for the Handicapped—$1.913 billion is appropriated for handicapped programs, an increase of $172.9 million over FY 1987.
- Vocational and Adult Education—$1.029 is appropriated, a $41.9 increase over FY 1987.
- Math/Science—$55 million is appropriated, a $25 million decrease in allocations available for FY 1987.
- LEAD—Current level funding, or $7.177 million, was recommended for the Leadership in Educational Administration Development Act.
- Education Research and Statistics—$73.8 million is appropriated, an increase of $10.2 million over FY 1987.

A more comprehensive breakdown by programs will be sent to all FLRs in August. If you would like further information now, call Jana Lumley at (202) 393-8165.

ACTION ALERTThe House will be considering H.R. 3058 the week of August 3. Delegations should be contacted and urged to support the appropriations bill. You should include your priorities (e.g., math/science) when you contact your representatives. Don't forget to oppose any across-the-board cuts, as expected from the bipartisan task force that is attaching amendments to all appropriations bills (see Hill Notes, July 17, 1987).

The Senate Appropriations Committee has been unable to reach a compromise on 302B allocations (see Hill Notes, July 17 & 24). Negotiations are expected to continue this next week. All recommendations offered to date would require outlay cuts of various sizes to Labor-HHS-Education. Please continue to contact the committee members, urging their support for the Congressional commitment to education expressed in the FY 1988 budget resolution.

UPCOMING HEARINGS

The Senate Labor and Human Resources Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities will hold a hearing on the reauthorization of the Adult Education Act, Thursday, August 6, at 10:00 a.m. in SD-430 Dirksen Building.

LETTER TO THE CONFEREES ON THE OMNIBUS TRADE BILL

A draft letter to the conferees on the trade bill was sent to all FLRs via electronic mail (check your mail!!). Please don't forget to contact the CCSSO-OFSR with your comments and suggestions on the letter. Call Jana Lumley at (202) 393-8165, or send your comments via electronic mail by FRIDAY, AUGUST 7.

THE BEST-LAID PLANS . . .

The general consensus on the most convenient day for receipt of ***HILL NOTES*** is Friday. WE are committed to this, but our WANG SYSTEM is not yet convinced. Thanks for your patience.

****HILL NOTES****

July 24, 1987

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE D.C. MEETING

The Legislative Committee of the council met in Washington on the morning of July 21, 1987. Members present were Thomas McNeel (WV, Chairman), Joseph E. Lutjeharms (NE), Wayne Sanstead (ND), and Robert Feir for Thomas Gilhool (PA). FLRs and/or Washington representatives from AL, CA, CT, FL, MD, NY, PA, VT, WA, and WV attended the meeting. CCSSO staff members Carnie Hayes, Jana Lumley, and Gail Smith were also present throughout the day.

The committee considered the CCSSO staff recommendation that the council express its support of the Civil Rights Restoration Act. Cindy Brown, director of CCSSO's Resource Center on Educational Equity, delivered a brief report on the history and ramifications of legislation that has been pending since the 99th Congress to restore the interpretation of the Civil Rights Act prior to the Supreme Court's Grove City ruling. After discussion, the committee moved to endorse the concept of restoring the protections afforded by the Civil Rights Act to all programs in institutions that are federally funded.

The Legislative Committee received a procedural recommendation that the CCSSO president appoint a special task force to develop recommendations for the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act in 1989. Discussion centered on the issue of timing (in light of the major elementary and secondary reauthorization and action on omnibus trade and other legislation) and representation (to ensure all council interests and concerns are considered in the development of the proposals). The chiefs concluded that convening such a task force would be appropriate and timely, and recommended that the president make the appointments as soon after the Summer Institute as possible. It was further decided that the task force should report its recommendations to the Legislative Committee for action by the full council at the 1988 Annual Meeting.

ACTION ALERT It was recommended that one member of the VOC-ED task force be nominated by the FLRs. If you would like to participate or recommend an FLR with relevant experience, please contact Jim Gladwell, chair of the FLR Steering Committee, at (304) 348-2441.

The committee also considered the FLR recommendation that members of the Legislative Committee be permitted to serve on a second CCSSO committee. Discussion focused on the need to generate interest in serving on the Legislative Committee, its differences from other CCSSO committees, and the time and resource demands on chiefs in serving on council committees. The consensus of the committee members was that the chiefs are already overextended, and it would be difficult for a chief to effectively participate in the meetings and activities of more than one committee. Based on discussion of how to enhance attendance and strengthen the decision-making process on legislative matters, the committee recommended that the council consider these issues in the context of the CCSSO committee structure, and that the executive director, the OFSR, and the FLRs should collaboratively develop recommendations for its structure and responsibilities.

Carnie Hayes summarized current Congressional activity on reauthorization of elementary and secondary programs, omnibus trade legislation, and the budget and appropriations process, as well as related CCSSO activities in these matters. FLRs will be sent copies of the written legislative update that was included in the committee's materials.

The Legislative Committee heard a panel discussion between Marianne Luciano (VT-FLR) and Alistair MacKinnon (NY-FLR) regarding the issue of the small state minimum in the spectrum of policies and positions on Chapter 1. Discussion included the question of whether it is appropriate for CCSSO to have positions on formula-related issues, the role of CCSSO in providing contexts where states can work out their differences on issues like this, and the potential advantages of reaching broad and specific legislative consensus on issues of this nature versus the potential for misunderstandings among the states and CCSSO and the Hill. The committee concluded that states should be kept informed on the issue of small state minimum and that the states, through FLRs, should continue to discuss the matter and work toward consensus.

FLR STEERING COMMITTEE D.C. MEETING

The FLRs met immediately following a joint lunch with the Legislative Committee. Present for all or part of the meeting were Jim Gladwell (WV Chairman), Mary Beth Jorgensen (MD), Gail ImObersteg (CA), Mary Ann Luciano (VT), Pat McGinnis (CA), Scott Brohinsky (CT), Al MacKinnon (NY), Maura Gavin (PA), Robin Vink (NY), Eileen Wiegert (WA), Jim Pirius (FL), and Bill Mellown (AL).

The Steering Committee set their next meeting for August 12 in Washington, D.C. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Hall of the States (room to be announced later). The agenda will include (1) work on the FLR recommendations for procedures and strategies for addressing various legislative situations through the mutual roles and responsibilities of the Legislative Committee, CCSSO staff, and FLRs and (2) discussion and designation of FLR representative for the Special Task Force on voc ed reauthorization (see item on Legislative Committee meeting above; call Jim Gladwell at (304) 341-2441 if interested in serving as the FLR rep or nominating someone).

In response to a memo to the Steering Committee from Gordon Ambach, CCSSO executive director, the FLRs concluded discussion and reworking of Recommendation A, the statement of FLR role and responsibilities. Following is the text as it is recommended for the CCSSO brochure and handbook:

> The Federal Liaison Representatives (FLRs) are individuals appointed by each Chief State School Officer to represent the interests of the chief on all federal education issues. Some chiefs may choose to be FLRs. FLRs are responsible for advocacy and support of elementary/secondary education programs, currently receiving billions of dollars. The FLRs work cooperatively with CCSSO to ensure maximum benefits for education and the state education agencies as laws, policies, or regulations are developed by various branches of the federal government.

Federal Liaison Representatives meet quarterly. A steering committee is elected to provide oversight of ongoing federal concerns, and to coordinate legislative activities on behalf of the state education agencies. Other activities conducted by the FLRs include professional development, data collection, and communication among state agencies, members of Congress, congressional staff, and other national educational organizations.

Also in response to the memo, the committee agreed to develop a policy paper describing FLR roles and functions in relation to the council and staff, elaborating how their responsibilities and interactions play out in different stages of the legislative process. (A hard copy of the memo will be sent to each FLR.) A draft paper will be developed by Mary Beth Jorgensen (MD) before the August 12 meeting. Any insights or suggestions should be referred to her at (301) 333-2208.

National survey data gathered by the Chapter 1 coordinators was distributed to the steering committee. The steering committee is analyzing the data and making recommendations on its content, format, and presentation to the Chapter 1 coordinators.

Carnie Hayes reported on CCSSO's work with the child advocacy groups on legislative recommendations for Chapter 1, including program improvement, parental involvement, and targeting. The NAACP Legal Defense Fund is interested in having SEAs analyze the impact on the states of a within-state 2 percent absorption factor in the allocation. The Administration has provided a state-by-state computer simulation on the effects of the two targeting mechanisms from county to county, and a copy was given to each FLR. FLRs not present at the meeting will receive the simulation for their state in the mail for the CCSSO-OFSR.

The steering committee concluded business by meeting with Ramsay Selden, CCSSO's director of the State Education Assessment Center, to offer suggestions on the design of a survey to the SEAs on their federal share of administrative costs. It was decided that FLRs should be used as the contact point to enhance the prospects for gathering accurate and usable data.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

APPROPRIATIONS

There has been no further action on House education appropriations. Please continue contacting your delegations regarding the ad hoc task force that has committed to applying across-the-board cuts to all appropriations bills on the floor. Full committee mark-up is scheduled for July 29 & 30. For background, see Hill Notes, July 17, 1987.

On Tuesday, Senator John Stennis (D-MS), chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, convened his subcommittee chairs to receive their requests for total appropriations to their subcommittees. Eleven of the chairmen made requests in excess of those allocated in the budget for their functions; exceptions were Labor-HHS and Education, and HUD and Independent agencies. Naturally, the aggregate was higher than the total allowed by the budget resolution. Suggested solutions included a 1 percent across-the-board cut to all subcommittee requests. This amounted to a disproportionate cut to Labor-HHS, and specifically to education. Deliberations by the chair and his subcommittee chairs are expected Wednesday, July 29.

****ACTION ALERT**** Members of your delegation should be contacted and urged to maintain the commitment to education expressed by the Senate in the budget. Opposition to the redistribution of appropriations from education programs to other programmatic areas should be expressed. The Committee for Education Funding (CEF) and each of the individual association members will be delivering letters to this effect to the Senate on Monday, July 27. For further information contact Carnie Hayes at (202) 393-8165.

At present, the Senate is considering H.J. Res. 324, the Debt Ceiling Extension Bill. Some budget reform amendments are expected to be offered. For projected effects of budget reform initiatives see Hill Notes, July 17, 1987.

SENATE PASSES TRADE BILL

On Tuesday, July 21, the Senate concluded consideration of S. 1420, the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1987. Passing 71 to 27, the bill contains education provisions that are basically those contained in S. 406, the Education for a Competitive America Act approved by the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee. The Senate bill must now be reconciled with H.R. 3, the House version of trade legislation. A conference is not expected until after the August recess.

UPCOMING HEARINGS

The Education, Arts and Humanities Subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee will hold a hearing on legislation to provide grants to assist local school districts in implementing voluntary desegregation plans—10:00 a.m., 430 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Thursday, July 30.

The House Select Education Subcommittee of the Education and Labor Committee will hold an oversight hearing on the Office of Educational Research and Improvement—9:30 a.m., 2257 Rayburn House Office Building, Thursday, July 30.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION BULLETIN BOARD AUGUST 5, 1987

Community Education Bulletin Board is the weekly newsletter of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Community Education Project, funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. The bulletin board is designed to provide information about community education to participants.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DRUG EDUCATION AND PREVENTION AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS PROGRAM GRANT INFORMATION

The U.S. Department of Education is conducting a $4.5 million grants competition to produce and distribute high-quality videotapes about the hazards of drug use. These tapes should be appropriate for classroom viewing by millions of America's elementary and secondary school students. The objective is to steer young people away from drugs and show them how to lead healthy, productive lives. The $4.5 million will be used to fund up to 16 proposals, estimated to range from $200,000 to $1 million. Under this program, the Secretary may make an award to a state educational agency, local educational agency, institution of higher education, or another profit or nonprofit agency, organization, or institution. Deadline for Grant Applications is September 4, 1987.

For applications or information contact: Louie E. Mathis, Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Dept. of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Room 4317 Switzer Building, Washington, DC 20202, or call (202) 732-4637.

NEW RURAL EDUCATION REPORT ASSESSES CONDITION OF RURAL SCHOOLS

Educators and local school board presidents in rural America have some real concerns about how well their schools are doing. One is the need to improve the academic performance of students from low-income families. The other is the challenge of providing students with critical thinking and reasoning skills. These and other facts emerge from a national survey of nearly 9,300 school board presidents, district superintendents, building principals, and classroom teachers from rural America. The survey reveals that at least half of the respondents believe something should be done to improve the academic performance of students from low-income families (60 percent) and students' thinking and reasoning skills (60 percent). The need to find a better way of recognizing and rewarding teachers comes in third (48 percent). Those people closest to the classroom express the most dismay about the overall quality of rural, small schools. Teachers and principals tend to mirror each other's concerns. District superintendents, on the other hand, tend to see more good than bad when looking at their schools. School board presidents are even more rosy-eyed in their assessments.

Teachers and principals tend to see more wrong with their schools than do either the superintendents or school board presidents. School board presidents, judging from the survey, are rural, small schools' biggest boosters. They think about half of the items on the survey need some attention, but only a handful really require some immediate consideration. At the same time, the board members think at least a third of the survey issues are really nonissues in their communities. Copies of the report, Building on Excellence: Regional Priorities for the Improvement of Rural, Small Schools, are available from CEDaR, Suite 305, 1201 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036 for $6, prepaid. (Source: R & D Preview, "Proud But Concerned," p. 2, by Joe Schneider.)

MINNESOTA ADULT LITERACY CAMPAIGN

In August 1986, a meeting was convened in Washington, D.C. to gather representatives of fifteen states which had organized a statewide, coordinated literacy initiative. Participants at that meeting indicated an interest in some form of ongoing information sharing among themselves and with other organizations and individuals interested in statewide literacy initiatives. Much has changed in the literacy landscape since last August. Many more states have developed or are in the process of developing coordinated statewide literacy initiatives. Governors are increasingly becoming aware of the relationship that literacy has to economic development and welfare reform. The National Governors Association and the Council of State Planning Agencies will soon release a literacy report and policy guide for governors.

To give input and receive information from the Minnesota Adult Literacy Campaign, contact Jean Mannink, Minnesota Adult Literacy Campaign, 475 North Cleveland Avenue, Suite 210, St. Paul, MN 55104, (612) 644-9978.

MAKE ROOM ON YOUR CALENDAR: IT'S CONFERENCE TIME

MAPP2 IN NOVEMBER: The Indianapolis Public Schools and the Indiana Department of Education are cosponsoring a national conference on parent involvement in Indianapolis on November 15, 16, 17, and 18, 1987. This second Methods for Achieving Parent Partnerships Conference, "Maintaining Active Parent Partnerships," will include nationally prominent speakers and will be directed toward policy makers, teacher trainers, teachers, school administrators, parents, and parent organizations. This conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Historic Union Station. For further information contact Project MAPP2, Indianapolis Public Schools, 901 N. Carrollton, Room #208, Indianapolis, IN 46202, (317) 266-4134.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIC RENEWAL IN NOVEMBER: This conference is designed to identify ways to improve the quality of civic life in American communities. Jointly sponsored by the National Civic League and the Lincoln Filene Center for Citizenship and Public Affairs, the conference will be held November 15–17, 1987, at the Sheraton Boston Hotel, Boston, Mass. For leaders interested in improving community life, the conference seeks three outcomes: A Civic Index—characteristics that define the qualities of civic health for communities; A Civic Policy Agenda—recommendations at all levels to encourage civic renewal; A Civic Renewal Action Plan—an organizational plan to develop resources and activities to support civic improvement in American communities. For further information, contact The National Conference on Civic Renewal, Civic Education Foundation, Lincoln Filene Center, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION: Minnesota and surrounding states will host the 1987 NCEA Conference. National issues such as leadership, learners at risk, community education programs and process, and others are being highlighted in the conference program which will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Minneapolis, Minn., December 3–5, 1987. For further information contact NCEA, 119 N. Payne St., Alexandria, VA 22314, (703) 683-6232.

NEW RESOURCES

NCEA'S NEW WORKBOOK FOR COUNCILS: So You're on the Council is a workbook for each member of a community council. It comes with a Facilitator's Guide, which shows the group leader how to conduct the first three meetings of the year and is designed to produce an action plan for the council to follow. For further information on obtaining both of these publications call (703) 683-NCEA.

The U.S. Public Health Service has a toll-free hotline to answer questions about AIDS. Recorded information is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In the continental U.S., call 800-342-AIDS. In Alaska and Hawaii, call collect (202) 245-6867.

NATIONAL EDUCATION INDICATORS DEMONSTRATE SCHOOL PROGRESS

With the release of the latest Condition of Education report by the Department of Education there is an answer to the question, "Is there any way to measure local progress against national trends?" The original goal was the development of a set of education indicators paralleling the economic indicators so useful in tracking the economy. The following are selected highlights from the report:

- Between 1982–83 and 1985–86 school years, expenditures per pupil increased by 24 percent in current dollars and by 12.3 percent in constant dollars for average annual increases of 7.5 and about 4 percent, respectively.

- The supply of new teacher graduates is expected to decrease from 1986 into the early 1990s, portraying a moderate decline in numbers over recent years.

- Students from homes with many reading materials and who watched little television read much better than students from homes with few reading materials and who watched a great deal of television.

- Cocaine use among high school seniors had more than tripled since 1975. In 1985, almost one out of every 15 high school seniors reported using cocaine in the past month.

- While alcohol usage has declined slightly over the decades, rates remain high. Nearly 2 in every 3 seniors reported using alcohol in the month preceding the survey.

- At the elementary level, the ratio of pupils to teachers has dropped from 28.7 in 1959–60 to an estimated 20.4 in 1984–85.

- At the secondary level, the ration of pupils to teachers has fallen from 21.5 in 1959–60 to an estimated 15.7 in 1984–85.

The 1986 edition (published in Feb. 1987) of the Condition of Education report may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, order #065-000-00276-1 for $13.00. (Source: NSPRA Impact, vol. 3, no. 1, p. 5, by John H. Wherry, Executive Director of the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA).)

BENNETT NAMES LITERACY INITIATIVE DIRECTOR AS HEAD OF ADULT EDUCATION

Education Secretary William Bennett recently named Karl Haigler director of the Education Department's Division of Adult Education. Haigler has been acting director of adult education since last September and has served as director of President Reagan's Adult Literacy Initiative—a post he will retain—since September 1985. Haigler will coordinate the efforts of the literacy initiative with the Education Department's adult education state grant program to promote collaboration between state and federal agencies and to encourage cooperation between public and private sector literacy providers and expansion of services for adult illiterates. The state grant program is funded at nearly $106 million this year, and the Education Department has requested a 22 percent increase for fiscal 1988. (Source: Education Daily, vol. 20, no. 115, p. 6)

PUBLIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION'S COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IMPROVES SCHOOLS

To demonstrate how active cooperation between community and school can improve a failing school, Public Education Association (PEA) negotiated the collaboration of parents and staff of Brooklyn P.S. 152, Brooklyn College, and the district superintendent. PEA held a four-day workshop in which the collaborators worked out strategies for tackling such problems as student self-discipline, language acquisition for the high population of non-English-speaking parents and students; orientation of new immigrants; and involvement of parents in their children's learning. Virtually next door neighbors, P.S. 152 and the teacher training component of Brooklyn College were isolated from each other until PEA brought them together. The most important potential of this partnership is a staff better prepared to deal with problems in a poorly performing inner city public school. This project was undertaken through grants from the Henry and Lucy Moses Fund and the Lavanburg Corner House.

PEA trained candidates and educated the electorate for the May 6, 1986, Community School Board elections. With the United Parents Association, PEA cochaired the City Wide Community School Board Elections Committee, which includes unions, parents, civic associations, the Board of Education, and the Board of Elections. The committee held training sessions for the candidates, each of whom was given free copies of PEA's two-part instructional Manual for Candidates. Working in the belief that a first step toward better public schools is improving community school boards, PEA led efforts to inform the public about the elections and the issues. The result was expanded coverage in the neighborhood and metropolitan press. In June PEA testified on problems and needed reforms before the New York State Assembly's Education Committee hearing on the elections. For further information about PEA, contact Executive Director Jeanne Silver Frankl, 39 W. 32nd St., New York, NY, (212) 868-1640.

NEW RESOURCES

School-Community Relations in Transition, by Richard W. Saxe, 361 pages, $23 hardbound. This book focuses on developing and maintaining the confidence of the public—a necessary requirement for effective educational systems in a democracy—by helping readers understand the condition of school-community relations. Furthermore, the book identifies and explains creative responses and initiatives appropriate for this time of transition. According to Richard Saxe, recent writings about school-community relations contain little guidance for concerned educators. Moreover, until recently, most preparation programs for teachers and administrators placed little emphasis on the relations between schools and parents and communities. This book will help school personnel assess and understand their new environments and identify resources to assist them in their efforts. To obtain this book write to McCutchan Publishing Corporation, 2526 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.

AIDS: The Disease and What We Know. A filmstrip for the senior high school level, from Sunburst Communications, Room TP 757, 39 Washington Ave., Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purchase price is $79.

AIDS: Facts and Fears, Crisis and Controversy. This videocassette program is designed to increase awareness about AIDS by presenting the facts about its symptoms, transmission, and treatment, and alert the public to practical methods of protection against the contraction of AIDS. Current medical research into the disease is also introduced along with medical experts' predictions for progress toward a cure. Another aspect of this program deals with developing an understanding for the plight of AIDS victims as they interact with a largely underinformed and wary public. Vendor: Guidance Associates, Box 3000, Mount Kisco, NY 10549, 800-431-1242. Purchase price is $189. (Both AIDS resources from NSPRA Impact, vol. 3, no. 1)

George Rush

George Rush was a staff member of the Council of Chief State School Officers for ten years. During that time he directed the State Technology Leadership and the CCSSO/NCES Network Coordination projects. Before joining the council in 1977, he served for ten years in various capacities for the Kentucky Department of Education, including seven years as director of computer services. He has also been a classroom teacher in Ohio and Kentucky.